

**Morris County Continuum of Care (CoC) Executive Committee Meeting
January 28, 2021, 10:00 AM Meeting Minutes – WEBEX Conference Call**

Voting Members Present: Mike Armstrong, Citizen Rep.; Karina Calabuig, Catholic Family & Community Services; Terry Connolly, Nourish NJ; Allison Delcalzo-Berens, Atlantic Health System; Russ Hall, Housing Alliance of Morris County; Elorm Ocansey, Fair Share Housing; Michael Saulnier, Dover School District; Rebecca Sherrod, Child & Family Resources, Inc., Brian Frommelt, Market Street Mission

Staff and Consultants Present: Shelia Carter, Morris County Human Services; Amy Archer, Morris County Human Services; Nadine Azari, Monarch Housing; Kasey Errico, County of Morris

Others: Invited Guests: Dan McGuire, Homeless Solutions; Joanne Bjornson, Family Promise; Dianne Williams, JBWS;

Welcome: Terry Connolly started the meeting at 10:05am and welcomed all attendees. All attendees introduced themselves.

We were having trouble with Webex, all attendees were asked to disconnect and connect again.

Approval of Nov. 19, 2020 Minutes: Motion by Mike Armstrong, second by Rebecca Sherrod. All in favor. Approved.

Public Comment: None

Committee Reports:

i. **Lead Agency Update:**

- Amy Archer: submitted agency reports.
- GIA packages going out to all providers.
- HAAC submitted to State for review.
- Community Development, Tim Tansey, distributed some of the funding, information could change. If there is additional funding, the document may change.
- Joann Bjornson asked if there is a needs assessment. Amy answered, not yet. It is at State for review.

ii. **CAS 2021 Goals:**

- Allison Delcalzo-Berens: CAS Committee recommends that COC adapts the LAP plan.

- Allison asked if we need to vote on this. Terry asked Allison to talk about what that would mean. Allison: COC should have a LAP when a % of the population have languages other than English. Research project / needs assessment: county had already done this work. Nadine: It is required for COC to have one. Terry asked: what does it change? Does it create additional requirements for providers? Allison: Most organizations already have this built in. Materials need to be translated. Client documents. i.e. Grievance Procedures, etc.
- Motion to adapt LAP by Mike Armstrong seconded by Rebecca Sherrod. No further discussion. All in favor. Approved.

The CAS Goals were set keeping in mind they are areas where HUD did not give us full points. By working on these goals, we expect to have better rating in our next HUD application.

2021 CAS Goals

Goal 1: Support families with children experiencing housing instability

Goal 2: Address systemic causes of network impoverishment, homelessness and recidivism.

Goal 3: Improve income outcomes for people experiencing housing crisis

Goal 4: Increase engagement with key stakeholders who can assist in permanent housing placements and long-term affordable housing (SSA, landlords, property owners, developers, healthcare providers)

Goal 5: Increase coordination and communication re: special projects

Terry thanked Allison for coordinating these efforts.

iii. Coordinated Entry

- Terry: prevention arm created at the end of 2020 is beginning to function.
- COC has gotten many people housed.
- Met with DCA regarding strategies to overcome hurdles to get people housed.
- Mike A.: kudos to everybody, thank you.
- **Permanent Housing:**
- Terry: we did provide a letter of support for GIA funding for Monarch Housing for landlord support program
- Russ: at critical stage of implementing the program, have received a grant from Morristown Medical Center to start-up but will need additional funding
- housing trust fund is largely on hold due to COVID, but will be revisited

- Allison asked about the housing authority voucher project - is that something that could have gone through CE, Terry: history - as CE was shifting, it was at the same time this project started. It initially functioned outside of CE and was pulled into the CE system and it has been incorporated into the process when we met with Kelly Stevens and we know have an MOU with the Housing Authority.
- Nadine: Terry summoned it up properly. Housing authority will communicate better with COC now.
- Joanne: Family Promise has assigned 20 out of 30 vouchers since June, coordinated through CE.

iv. Nominating

- Allison:
 - 1) Reminder that if you haven't already selected a subcommittee, please do so.
 - 2) Elorm and Michael are new, need two existing member to mentor them. If you are interested let Allison know.

v. Allocations

- Rebecca: applicants are going to do an informational session right before grants go out, sometime in February.
- Nadine: plan is to schedule information session in February, desk monitoring scores from 2020 application process will be made available to applicants. All funded agencies will be given a week to look at them, then in 2nd half of information session, agencies will be able to bring up their concerns or questions.
- We will not be doing desk monitoring for 2020 application. We will be using 2021 cycle.

vi. Funded Provider Work Group

- Terry: providers are requesting that members do tours or virtual tours. If you are not familiar with organizations, email Terry and she will help you arrange a virtual tour.
- System wide funding review: Monarch received funds for 2021 to look at data analysis system performance measures, strategic planning. Funding matrix will look at all funding streams for all the people we fund. We will then be able to compare our progress with Systems Performance Measures to what is being funded within the system and make well-informed and strategic decisions.

For Discussion

Funded Agency Spotlight: JBWS, Homeless Solutions, Family Promise

Dan McGuire: Homeless Solutions (power point)

We have been working closely with the three agencies, one presentation for all three agencies

1. Diane Williams, JBWS

2. Joann Bjornson, Family Promise
3. Dan McGuire, Homeless Solutions

Homeless Solutions was started in 1983 – They provide short and long term options with shelter and housing.

JBWS was started in 1976 – They provide safe house, transitional living, rapid-rehousing, legal advocacy, crisis response for domestic violence victims. Training for counselors, nurses, teachers, etc. Please find them on FB, share information on social media.

Family Promise provides housing, emergency shelter, outreach, prevention

Terry: if anyone has questions about these programs, reach out them or us and we will give you more information.

Racial Equity Project:

Background: last year COC was invited by Monarch to participate in a racial equity project with NIS. It is a two year project.

Year one: training for executive committee, look at systems, policies and procedures, practices and working directly with consumers who are experiencing homelessness.

Year 2: participatory budgeting - voices of consumers are heard and used to decide budgeting

Presented by Monarch:

Agenda:

- Racial disparities in Morris County
- Ground Rules
- Definitions
- Activity - The Invisible Knapsack
- A look into the data

Racial disparities in Morris County: huge disparity with white homeless vs. other races. Race is a higher indicator of homelessness than poverty. Homelessness decreased for white, increased for black / latinx residents.

What comes next?

Ground Rules: showing compassion, respecting confidentiality, holding accountability, processing guilt, processing discomfort, providing space, remaining present

Definitions:

- privilege
- white privilege
- intersectionality: Article Kimberly Crenshaw on intersectionality
- race,
- culture
- implicit bias
- microaggressions
- individual racism
- systemic / structural racism
- oppression

Activity - The Invisible Knapsack

Peggy McIntosh: activity to help us see things and opportunities we have because of our race, that we may take for granted that our clients of other races might lack.

A look into the data:

Data showed black, people of color and Latin have higher rates of being uninsured, and household with zero net worth and lower rates of home ownership.

How does our invisible knapsack impact the people we serve?

Mike Armstrong suggested that materials are sent out previous to meetings for review and that the racial equity part of the meeting be moved to the beginning.

Allison: short activities during all CAS meetings, Nadine and Lana will be planning. If you're interested, CAS is another option.

New Business: None

Armstrong made a motion to dismiss the meeting. Allison second the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:06pm.

Next Meeting: March 25, 2021